

Much of the information on which decisions on applications for allowances are based is provided through investigations carried out by officers of the Veterans Welfare Services Branch.

In addition to defining policy, the Board adjudicates on appeals from decisions of the District Authorities and periodically reviews, on its own initiative, decisions of these Authorities.

**Imperial War Graves Commission.**—All Commonwealth Governments are members of the Commission, incorporated by Royal Charter in 1917, and are represented by their High Commissioners in London. The Commission is entrusted with the marking and maintenance, in perpetuity, of the graves of those of the British Commonwealth Armed Forces who lost their lives between Aug. 4, 1914 and Aug. 31, 1921, and between Sept. 3, 1939 and Dec. 31, 1947. The Commission erects memorials to commemorate those in unknown graves.

The Minister of Veterans Affairs is the Agent of the Commission in Canada and the office of the Secretary-General of the Canadian Agency is in the Veterans Affairs Building, Ottawa.

The area of responsibility of the Canadian Agency is the Continent of North America but it has also certain duties of inspection in Argentina, Bahamas, Barbados, Bermuda, Brazil, British Guiana, British Honduras, Chile, Costa Rica, Cuba, Falkland Islands, French West Indies, Guatemala, Hawaiian Islands, Jamaica, Leeward Islands, Netherlands Antilles, Panama Canal Zone, Peru, Puerto Rico, Trinidad, Uruguay, and Windward Islands.

In North America the Agency is responsible for about 13,000 War Graves in over 2,000 cemeteries. Approximately 3,400 servicemen of both wars, missing in operations while based in North America, are commemorated on the memorials erected at Victoria, B.C., and at Halifax, N.S.

It is expected that construction will be started early in 1958 on a memorial in Ottawa commemorating by name approximately 850 Commonwealth Air Forces servicemen who lost their lives in the Second World War while on operations from bases in Canada and the United States, and who have no known grave.